

LUCERNE TO BASLE.
Editorial Correspondence of The Tribune.
BASLE, July 13, 1851.

THE SWISS

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Switzerland, shut out from equal competition with other nations, by her inland, elevated, scarcely accessible position, has naturalized Manufactures on her soil, and they are steadily extending. She sends Millions' worth of Watches, Silks, &c., annually even to distant America; while Italy, with nearly all her population within a day's ride of the Adriatic or the Mediterranean, with the rich, barbaric East at her doors for a market, does not fabricate even the rags which partially cover her beggars, but depends on England and France for most of the little clothing she has. Italy is naturally a land of abundance and luxury, with a soil and climate scarcely equalled on earth; yet a large share of her population actually lack the necessities, not to speak of the comforts, of life, and those who sew and reap her bountiful harvests are often without bread: Switzerland has, for the most part, an Arctic climate and scarcely any soil at all, and yet her people are all decently clad and

H. G.

SUMMER NOTES OF A HOWARDII

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V.
Niagara.
Correspondence of The New-York Tribune.
AUGUST 2, 1851.

But the storm swept itself away, and I awoke at morning to find myself upon the verge of the vortex of interest and excitement. All the previous day I had smiled rather loftily at the idea of excitement in approaching Niagara; but when my luggage was checked, and I bought a ticket for "Niagara Falls," and, stepping into the cars, knew that I should not alight until I heard the roar and saw the spray of the cataract; then the sense of its grandeur, of its unique sublimity, which I perfectly knew, though I had never seen, came down upon me and smote me suddenly with awe, as when a man who has loitered idly to St. Peter's, grasps the leather curtain to push it aside, that he may behold the magnificence whose remembered luster shall illumine every year of his life.

It is remarkable that the anti-romance of a railroad is a mere sentiment. The straight lines piercing the rounding landscape are essentially poetic, and the fervid desire of sight and possession which fires the mind upon approach

Nor could the speed of that railroad more than figure the eagerness of my desire, as it swept us through the vineyards. Nor did the dream of Venice dissolve, but deepen rather, for the strange contrast of that wild speed and that eternal, romantic rest.

— And meanwhile ?
— **Meanwhile, Niagara.**

For, although you have not yet seen the Cataract, you feel that nothing else can be the crisis of this chaos. Were you suddenly placed there and your eyes unbandaged, and you were asked, "What shall be the result of all this?" the answer would accompany the question, "Niagara." But we must still sport with our emotions. Some philosopher will die, his last breath sparkling from his lips in a pun. Some fair and fated Lady Jane Grey will span her slight neck with her delicate fingers, and smile to the headsman that his task is easy. And we, with kindred feeling, turn aside into the shop of Indian curiosities and play with Niagara, treating it as a Jester, as a Bayadere, to await our pleasure.

As yet you have not seen the Fall; you are coming with its waters, and are at its level. But groups of persons sitting upon yonder point, which we see through the trees, are looking at the Cataract. We do not pause for them; we run now, down the path, along the bridges, into the Tower, and lean far over, where the spray cools our faces, and the living water of the Rapids moves more majestically and undisturbed to its fall—yet as if torpid with terror; and the tumbling ocean that we saw, in one vast volume swooms over the parapet and pours itself away.

Yours aff. HOWARD.

REVELATIONS OF JAPAN

The Institutions of the Japanese.

The second son of the *Mikado* (Emperor) was formerly his father's chief military officer, but afterwards one of the rulers, out of love for his third son, made the office alternate triennially between the second and third sons. In the course of a few generations, so much jealousy arose between the alternate Generals, that, in their disensions, the Emperor himself was robbed of the greater part of his power, and, since the year 1586, has been little more than a nominal ruler. However, he is still considered as holy and as absolute in power, though the *Sogun*, or Crown-Gen^l, takes his place in all civil affairs.

The head of the family is responsible for his children and associates, no matter who the latter may be; besides which, every five adjoining families are responsible for each other. It is therefore the duty of each head of a family to take notice of the affairs of his neighbor, and acquaint the Kasira with everything that happens. If this is not promptly done, he is involved in his neighbor's guilt and suffers the same punishment, even if it be banishment or death. This universal responsibility prevents many crimes and treasonable plots, and executions seldom take place. The Judge disregards all mitigating circumstances in the exercise of his office; but he is careful to punish only when the laws have been knowingly and willfully broken. Nowhere is there greater security of person and property than in Japan. This cunning system, founded on reciprocal espionage and reciprocal responsibility, binds together as with an intricate net high and low, princes and subjects. From the arteries of the body politic it branches out into the finest hair-drawn channels in every department of trade and society.

Not only Princes, Ministers of State and other high officers transmit their stations to their eldest

The act of disemboweling is a privilege of the better classes, who from their youth are all taught the rules and regulations under which it must be observed. On the occasion of performing the act, a particular garment must be worn, and the nobles never neglect taking it with them when they set out upon a journey. When a person is condemned to disembowel himself—a which does not often happen—his sons and brothers, as well as his father and uncles, are all obliged to perform the same operation on themselves. All receive the sentence, so that the act is done by all at the same time. The condemned person invites his

Voluntary disemboweling is not infrequent. Nobles or warriors make use of it when, through their own neglect or the guilt of their subordinates, they have reason to anticipate punishment. Governors also perform it, when some misdeed has happened within their jurisdiction, the perpetrator of which they cannot point out. In all these cases the Japanese prefers voluntary disemboweling to a slight but dishonorable punishment, since he thus preserves the honor of his family and secures his son's succession in the office. The same operation is also performed in the presence of a person by whom the suicide has been injured or offended. In Japan an insult can only be washed out by one's own blood.

Although there is no division of castes in Japan, as in China and India, the different classes are distinctly separated, and it is almost impossible for one of a low rank ever to reach a higher, except through adoption. The highest class is the nobility, which is again divided into the higher and lower, the former of whom are allowed to wear white garments. Next come the warriors, who carry sabres in their girdles; and then the priests, who in rank alone, but not in position, stand higher than the former. The intelligent class consists mostly of civil officers, physicians and other scientific men. They have the right to wear sabres and pantaloons—a right also possessed by the lowest of their servants. Below the lower classes belong the merchant, mechanic, the manufacturer, the farmer and the day-labourer. According as a trade or profession is held in the public estimation, are the persons who carry it on respected or despised. Thus the artist, and even the farmer, though they are generally poor, are more respected than the merchant, no matter how great may be his wealth. The peasants and the lower classes are exposed to all kinds of oppression, and pass their lives, with few exceptions, in a state of the greatest misery. Leather-dressing and everything connected with it, is the most despised occupation. Those who carry it on are shut out from respectable society. The executioners are always chosen from amongst them, and they are therefore the most degraded class of men.

Printers in California.
For The Tribune.

A friend, writing from San Francisco, states that on the day succeeding the fire there was but one printing press running in that city. This was a double-cylinder flat press, formerly used by *The New-York Tribune*. During the fire it was taken down; all the small parts, screws, bolts, &c. buried in a barrel under ground, and other portions removed out of danger. The press was in this situation at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when the danger being over, Messrs. George Amerige and C. Stedman, two New-York pressmen, took hold of it, with their sleeves rolled up. They got it in operation again, and drove off the editions of four of the San Francisco papers, which made their appearance next morning, as though nothing had occurred. Is not this a feat that can challenge to be beat? No wonder California goes ahead.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

☞ "THE PLANETARY SYSTEM: ITS ORDER AND PHYSICAL STRUCTURE," by J. P. NICHOLO. Is a new work by this active-minded Professor on the phenomena of the Solar System. Although it makes some use of the language and illustrations employed in his previous volume on the same subject, it is intended as a detailed introduction to the study of an extensive division of astronomical science, requiring no profound mathematical acquisitions for its comprehension, and adapted to the study of all intelligent readers. The earnestness, and even enthusiasm of Prof. Nichol's style, his lucid illustrations and comparisons, and his cordial devotion to the cause of popular science, make this volume a very accessible and instructive one, in spite of its frequent touches of pomposity. (12mo, pp. 344. Hippolyte Balthus.

OREGON.

The Land Bill and its Effects—Speculation.
Correspondence of the Tribune.

PACIFIC CITY, Oregon, June, 1881.

The Land Bill of Oregon, which gives to all, with no stinted hand, will convince its settlers of this fact, that a quantity of land, to any large amount held by single individuals or single families, is no desirable, and is productive of evil, not good.

The Land law makes, to a certain extent, land monopolists of all the residents in Oregon, who choose to select land and reside upon it. To all in the country prior to December 1st, 1850, a full section is given to every family, and a half-section to every married man, and half this amount to all who come after December 1st, 1850, and prior to December 1st, 1855. In California and Oregon there are an unprecedented proportion of unmarried men, many of these will select their claims, and comply with the requirements of the law, sufficiently to hold them. All married and unmarried men will be eager to claim the full quantum which the law allows. The prairies and most desirable and fertile portions will be first taken. The land taken, for the most part, cannot be disposed of, bargained or promised, till after the expiration of four years from the time it became the residence of the claimant. He must affirm he took it for his own use and cultivation.

It will be seen at once how scattered and disjointed a community, thus settled, must necessarily be, and how large a proportion of the most desirable land must remain uncultivated. The emigrants to Oregon, having families, will feel the inconvenience of this arrangement as soon as they arrive, and seek a location. They will find a sufficiency of uncultivated land. They can settle on it, and they will find themselves solitary and alone. The basis of wealth, comfort, and prosperity is abundant in Oregon, but the present arrangement for its settlement is not calculated to develop its wealth, or give it a cheerful and animated population. The land is bestowed in such a manner that he cannot dispose of it, or any part of it, for four or eight years, is too restrictive a provision. It amounts to a decree, that three-fourths of the best portion of Oregon shall for years remain uncultivated, and that those who attempt to settle it shall

What the remedy? Loosen the ligation which binds the land, the fertile territory, to be condemned to barrenness for so many years! Why say to the resident in Oregon, You may select and appropriate, for yourself and yours, 640 acres of land, and not bargain or promise it to another, under pain of forfeiture? Why not let the land of Oregon be free at once, so that at the disposal of those who live on it, it may be used as they see fit? But what can be done? Suppose Congress should so amend the Oregon Land Bill, that those actually entitled to land, by residing on it and cultivating it for four years, could have the privilege, by paying the Government price for one-half of it, the other half to be sold to the Government at the will of the owner, the legal owners of the land at once, and have the right to dispose of the same—the fund thus raised to constitute a school fund for Oregon, and be at the disposal of her people.

Under such an arrangement, compact neighborhoods would soon be formed. The sections would be partitioned out in subdivisions, farms, and the like, and the outstanding mortgages would be paid off. The basic home could be secured to the wife and children of many who are not now in a situation to reside on a farm for four consecutive years.

There is no doubt that many who are now holding a whole section would avail themselves of such a provision, and thus create a large school fund for Oregon. It would enable those holding claims properly situated for town sites, at once to give valid titles. The circumstances of Oregon seem to fit

Those who emigrate to Oregon may expect to find a state of things quite different from the one which they find in the East. The population is on the wing. Different interests pursue different ways. There are some ten or more points, within twenty miles of the mouth of the Columbia, all of which hope to become the great port of the river. The stranger who visits these different points, and obtains a description of the advantages of each, will feel bewildered, and will be heartily glad to place his little confidence in anything he hears of. The hand of speculation is as cold, and the dangers of avarice are as icy in Oregon as in any country.

T. M. D.

INDIANA

Wheat Crops—Corn Prospects—Peru and Indianapolis Railroad—New Whig and Free Soil Paper—New Constitution, &c.
Correspondence of The Tribune.

NOBLEVILLE, Ind., Thursday, July 30.

The corn looks fine, and there is every reason to believe that it will be a splendid crop.

The President of the Indianapolis and Fern Road has made arrangements to complete the Road to the latter place at an early day. This Road is doing a paying business. The Shelbyville and Edinburgh Railroad (branch of the Indianapolis and Madison) has been purchased by the Louisville Company, with the obvious intention to draw away the trade from the interior of Indiana to Kentucky, and to build up Louisville and retard the growth and trade of Madison.

The Whigs are getting up a new paper here, to be called *The True Whig*. It will, it is understood, take ground against the late Compromise measures, at least against the Fugitive Slave Bill, and aim to consolidate the Whig and Free Soil vote, and to concentrate their power in favor of Gen. Scott for the next Presidency. Scott is popular in Indiana. If he could receive the entire Whig and Free Soil vote, he could carry Indiana; but there is a strong and general feeling in favor of the Compromise measures in Indiana.

There is a diversity of sentiment in reference to the new Constitution. The great majority of Whigs and Democrats, however, will support it. The great mass of the friends of all parties, who will vote against it, because of its negro clause. If it shall be adopted, it will introduce some progressive and practical features into society in general, and into the national and legal matters in particular. It will provide for the holding of county and county Seminars, which were erected at the expense of the people in general, while the benefits derived from their operations are limited to county towns. It will provide for the appointment of certain high and important offices to the people, instead of to the legislative bodies, and leave to the people the right of electing the officers in which it where it should be, in the hands of the people. It will allow any man to practice law in our courts, and he have a good moral character, and will require several other reforms, which will be of great benefit to the community will be a majority of at least fifty thousand.

J. Y. Z.

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